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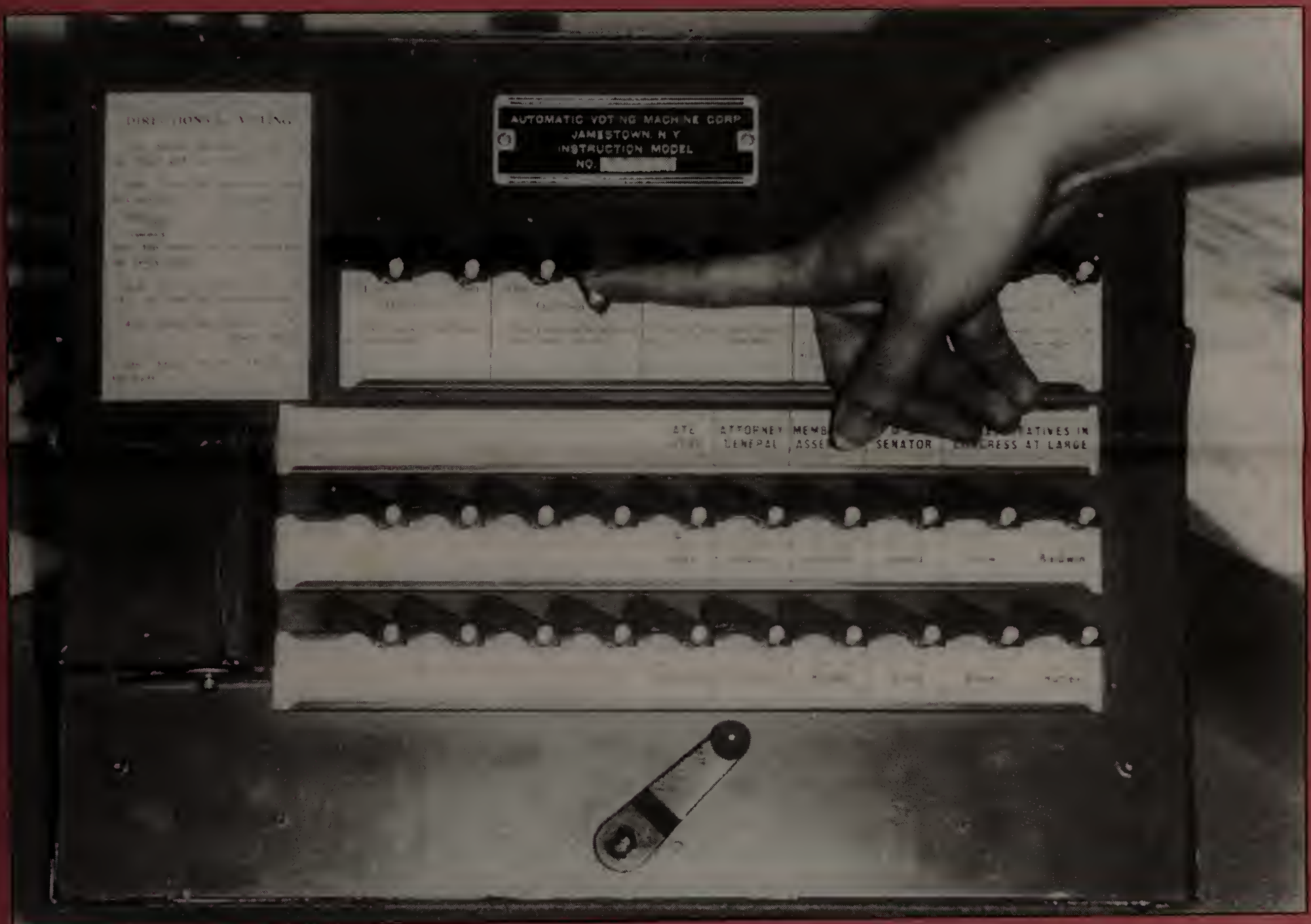


New England's Only Chinese-English Newspaper

VOL. XXVIII, November 3, 2000

二千年十一月三日

投票有用的一票



Exercising the Right

Asian Americans Face Barriers to Voting, Solutions Possible

INSIDE: Bak Fun Wong Interviewed * Election Information * Tribute to Students

THE SAMPAN

A.A.C.A.
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NEWS

LOCAL

Community Day a Success

Immigrants from throughout the metro-Boston area visited the Boston City Hall during the October 25th Community Day, sponsored by the Office of New Bostonians (ONB). According to Gaston Toufong, community outreach coordinator for the ONB, 1,500 immigrants came to the day-long event. The event's goal was to familiarize immigrants with the building and the City's services. Various city departments had information booths in the lobby and surrounding hallways; the participating departments have been working with the ONB to make themselves more accessible to immigrants. Visitors could tour the building and learn how to use the voting booths, and could attend workshops. During the kick off lunch, the U.S. Conference of Mayors presented Mayor Thomas Menino and Boston with a City Liveability Award in recognition of the Mayor's initiative to create the ONB. At the evening reception and dinner, city departments heads presented their offices. Mayor Menino was not able to attend the dinner due to illness; however, his wife spoke on his behalf.

"We [ONB] did Community Day because we wanted immigrant communities to feel comfortable in City Hall, and to feel that it belongs to them too," said Toufong.



Artsrendezvous Kicks Off in Malden

On October 22, the S.T. Gallery, working in collaboration with the Asian Spectrum, a Chinese cable program in Malden, kicked off Artsrendezvous. The opening initiated the series of art exhibitions, poetry readings, musical performances and more that will be held at the gallery until December 2 (for details see the Calendar section of *The Sampan*). The aim of Artsrendezvous is to promote Asian art and culture and make it accessible to Asian Americans and the community at large in Malden. James Hsu, tea connoisseur, (pictured above on the left) demonstrated traditional Chinese tea preparation, brewing and etiquette. Hsu studied tea art with the famous Taiwanese tea plantation owner Master Too.

Asian American Bank Continues to Grow

The Asian American Bank and Trust

announced on October 18 that its third quarter earnings were \$212,908, a dramatic increase from its \$97,887 earnings from the same period last year. The assets of the bank have increased significantly as compared with the same period last year. Net income and earnings per share have almost doubled as compared to the same period last year. The Asian American Bank is the largest independent commercial bank in New England organized to serve Asian American, new immigrants and other ethnic communities.



Asian Republicans Rally for Travis

On October 30, the Massachusetts Asian American Republican Association (MAARA) held an informational meeting and rally in the Leather District for Martin Travis, who is the Republican candidate for the Fourth Congressional District. Travis (pictured on the left), running against the Democratic incumbent Representative Barney Frank, explained to an audience of Asian Americans his platform. Joe Wong, vice president of MAARA, (pictured on the right) translated Travis's remarks. Republican National Committeewoman Jody Dow attended the event.

Paralegal/Secretary

The Town of Brookline seeks a full time Paralegal/Secretary for the Office of Town Counsel to assist in case preparation, drafting and filing legal documents, processing large volume of claims, reviewing and analyzing legal documents and minute taking as well as general office duties including, but not limited to, reception, accounts payable, library maintenance and ordering of office supplies. Candidates must have the ability to communicate well with others and possess strong written and verbal skills; be organized, reliable, discreet, self-motivated and be able to work independently as well as part of a team; possess the ability to work under pressure to realize deadlines and problem-solve; and be proficient in Windows 95, Microsoft Office (Microsoft Word) and must be capable of learning the accounts payable processing system. Candidates must have either an Associate's Degree or Paralegal Certificate and five (5) or more years of office experience in either a general office setting and/or law office setting, shorthand a plus.

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter By November 20, 2000 to: **Personnel Director, Town of Brookline, 333 Washington Street, Brookline, MA 02445.**

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COVER STORY

Making a Difference

Voting in the Immigrant Asian American Community

By Eric William Schramm

For Chinatown resident Sau-King Chan, holding a Boston Votes 2000 sign and trying to get people to register to vote on a street corner in Chinatown is an end. It is also a beginning. From here, grassroots political involvement can take a stronger hold in her political consciousness.

Chan, a naturalized U.S. citizen, is one of many Chinatown residents, not to mention Asian Americans throughout the Boston area and the country, that have taken the right to vote not as a burden, but an obligation that must be exercised. In this election year, nearly 500 voters have been newly registered in Chinatown alone through the Boston Votes 2000 campaign. This indicates that the most basic act of civic participation has gained in importance in this community that has often been seen as politically shy or inactive. The community's rising interest in voting has also revealed the impediments that have plagued its participation. This in turn has engendered new thinking on how to surpass these barriers.

The story of Chan's political involvement is one of a gradual transformation. Her family came to the United States in 1983 when she 13 years old. Seven years later, as a sophomore at Boston College, she became a citizen. At first, she saw becoming a citizen as a way to finding better job opportunities after graduation. Voting was an easy topic to ignore. It didn't affect her day-to-day life. Consequently, in the 1992 election, she did not vote.

However, that presidential election did have its effect. "I became more conscious of my rights and responsibilities. I became aware that it would be shameful to waste my power," said Chan. As a result, she registered to vote soon after.

Between 1992 and this year, Chan noted that her political consciousness has further developed. She felt that in getting older the importance of voting continued to grow on her. It was during this time she surmounted one of the most infamous of impediments to voting: the feeling that her vote wouldn't make a difference.

"I became aware of my vote counting despite the feeling that it might not. On a more personal level, I felt that by voting I had done something," said Chan.

In addition to her heightened belief in the importance of voting, Chan moved into Chinatown two years ago, which has given her a greater understanding of the issues that the community faces. She quickly recognized that the residents lacked a strong voice. To help remedy the situation, she joined the Chinatown Residents Association and became a member of The Chinatown Initiative's Steering Committee that is currently working on updating the 1990 Chinatown Community Master Plan.

And, just two months ago, during the Boston Votes 2000 campaign, on Office of New Bostonians (ONB) Director Cheng Imm Tan's request, Chan carried and hung up Boston Votes 2000 signs and helped register new voters for the election. This marked the first time that Chan had been given the opportunity to be politically active. In a day's work, she helped give a potential voice to scores of Chinatown residents. And, personally, she furthered the evolution of her political consciousness.

At first, she found what she was doing--the sign carrying, the talking to strangers--a bit strange, but as she spoke to more people, she became much more comfortable with it. "I began to feel that I was helping in some way," said Chan.

Tourists and Chinatown residents greatly appreciated the take-it-to-the-streets-approach, according to Chan. Immediately, by bringing up the issue of voting, people responded with questions about the process. "They said they got letters [telling them where their polling place was] that were written in English," said Chan, adding, "They were confused."

The people who had questions were helped on the spot, and those who needed more information were

given the phone number for the ONB, which, among other things, is a central source of information for the immigrant communities in Boston. For instance, it has also helped immigrant organizations coordinate the Boston Votes 2000 campaign. In Chinatown alone, 14 organizations have been involved in registering voters.

Chan has noticed an increase in the number of organizations involved in recent elections. This trend will help more immigrants get involved not only as informed voters, but they may also nurture an interest



Sau-King Chan

in civic participation

"During each election, more things are done to get people involved. So many organizations are involved in getting the word out," said Chan.

1996 Backlash

The increased involvement of immigrant organizations in national elections has significantly raised the number of voting immigrants. In 1996, the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA)-ran its first Asian Pacific Islander American voter campaign.

"People said it was the first time they had been approached to register," said Christine Chen, national director for the APIA Vote campaign that is run out of the OCA's office. Voter registration and general election information can be accessed by visiting the campaign's website at apiavote.org.

For the many immigrants who eventually voted, what they got in return was not what they expected. Under new leadership, Congress passed welfare and immigration reform laws that negatively affected immigrant communities. For example, under the Personal Responsibility Act, in order to be eligible for federal benefits, a person had to work in the United States for 40 quarters (or 10 years). This new regulation was particularly harsh on the elderly who were not citizens and had not worked the required amount of time, according to Lydia Lowe, director of the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA).

Forty-four percent of the saving that were projected in the 1996 bill came from cutting benefits to legal immigrants including the elderly, the disabled, and families, according to Tyler Moran, policy coordinator for the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition. However, Moran noted that the National Governor's Association was a driving force in getting Supplemental Security Income restored to legal immigrants who were here before 1996. Then, in 1998, food stamps were restored to some of the elderly, the disabled, and children. States like Massachusetts have made up for some other losses. Nonetheless, the 1996 reform law caused widespread alarm in immigrant communities like Chinatown.

"After the welfare and immigration reform, the Asian American community mobilized. They took things one step further to become educated about the issues. Since then, citizenship and ESL courses have

included election information," said Chen.

Locally, this new degree of engagement with voting and election issues by Chinatown residents has been readily apparent, according to Lowe. Residents have been much more proactive about registering and educating themselves.

"This year a lot more people were interested in registering because it's the presidential election. They have a better sense of the issues. Ever since welfare reform passed, people have been more party conscious. There's more of an anti-Republican sentiment. In the past, people didn't know which party to choose, but, now, 90% of the people said they wanted to be Democrats," said Lowe.

After 1996, immigrants who had previously viewed the Federal government as being distant quickly realized, once their benefits started to disappear, that decisions made in Washington D.C. did, in fact, affect their lives. This new understanding had positive results though in the long run. It emboldened a greater number of immigrants to register and to begin to educate themselves. This wide scale mobilization also brought to light various impediments, besides apathy, to becoming involved in the electoral process that have long existed.

From hurdles . . .

While fielding questions during the Boston Votes 2000 campaign, Chan found that those she spoke to said that finding the time to vote was a major impediment for them. In Chinatown, the three major groups of residents are restaurant workers, the elderly and the young. Each of these groups, Chan said, has to struggle with finding time to vote, or even register.

The workers often are on the clock from early in the morning to late at night. When they get off, they are exhausted. Getting up early to register or vote would take away from precious sleep. The elderly, while not as busy as the workers, are often housebound. They also may be baby-sitting all day. Getting out to exercise their civic duty may require help from those very relatives that are working at the restaurants.

As for the youth, even if they can vote, a lack of interest or disgust with the system keeps them, like many other youths, from participating. Voting, for these three groups, can be seen quite simply as an inconvenience.

Even if the time barrier is surmounted, the next, and most obvious, barrier arises--language. This barrier is especially difficult for elderly voters. Seventy-eight-year-old Chun Wing Wu, who lives in Charlestown, is not registered to vote for this election. He did not know where to register. However, he has kept up with the issues and the candidates by reading the Chinese newspapers. What separates him from some of his friends, he said, is that he can read Chinese. Illiteracy in one's native language intensifies the language barrier.

For those who can read Chinese and speak some English, the primary barrier to getting information and registering is that much of the necessary information is not available in Chinese.

"There is no bilingual voting information. Even if they know enough English to pass the citizenship exam, they may not know enough to read the ballot," said Lowe.

Additionally, through a lack of information on the candidates and issues, Lowe said that people often ask her: how can I register and vote when I don't know who to vote for?

During a national election, the local Chinese newspapers will provide information on the major candidates. However, according to Lowe, these newspapers don't have as much information as the English-language press does or any information on state and local candidates and ballot questions.

Continued on p. 4

The Sampan

200 Tremont St., Boston, Mass. 02116
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COVER STORY

Difference . . . , Continued from p 3.

Regarding local elections, Lowe pointed out that another impediment to participation is that it is difficult for Asian Americans to run for office in Boston. Such community candidates would energize the Chinatown community to vote. As of now, Chinatown is included in a district with South Boston, which has historically dominated this district. Lowe hopes that when the Census come out, the numbers will show that redistricting is necessary.

Another impediment is that of cultural differences, noted Kyoshi M. Yue, congressional aide in health, education, labor and pension and state liaison for Senator Edward Kennedy.

"Once they become citizens, they don't know they have the voting power to steer the government. Many come from countries where they couldn't participate," said Yue.

While these impediments have ironically become more visible due to the increase in registration and interest in election issues among Asian Americans, there are solutions that may be implemented.

... To gateways

It is agreed that an important solution to the above problems is education. As Chan felt an obligation to vote, so she believes this feeling needs to be passed on to others.

"They need to feel that they have to do it. They need a change of perspective through education. By seeing people talking about it and seeing signs about it, voting will become an issue. They will see it as their right to do so," said Chan.

That voting is fundamental to the health of a democratic country needs to be stressed to immigrants, according to OCA's Chen. "For immigrants, many come to the United States because it is a democracy. They take it for granted. They don't realize that if you don't participate, it's no longer a democracy because only a few are dictating how things should be run."

The OCA doesn't rely on only community leaders to get this message through, because these very same leaders often need to be educated about the process as well. The OCA works with local community organizations to provide workshops that can educate the whole community.

The necessary education can also begin in the household. Yue said that children and young adults could also help by teaching their elders about voting. Teaching through conversation relates to an important part of Asian culture.

"Asian culture is rooted in the oral tradition; these things can be taught by utilizing this tradition as well."

One of the solutions that Wu suggested also relates to education. He believed that more funding for citizenship and ESL classes would help prepare more people to vote and learn about the issues. His friends that don't speak English or aren't literate in Chinese could also benefit from his second suggestion regarding citizenship interviews.

Currently, in order to qualify for a citizenship interview conducted in Chinese, meaning an interpreter would be provided, the applicant must be either 55 years old and have had a green card for 15 years. Or, they must be 50 years old and have had a green card for 20 years. Wu said that the number of years required to have a green card should be dropped to 10 years. This way more immigrants who can't speak English but have lived in this country for a decade could become citizens. Besides, even with Wu's suggestion, the affected people will have already lived in the United States for three years beyond the minimum required to apply for citizenship.

Along with improving educational opportunities for Asian Americans, there are also some practical measures that could be adopted to help these immigrants become better-informed voters. These options, suggested by Lowe, depend on collaboration with the state government, the City of Boston and the Election Commission.

An immediate solution for language problems at the polls would be to offer more interpreters to help voters

"THEY [CHINATOWN RESIDENTS] NEED TO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE TO DO IT. THEY NEED A CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE THROUGH EDUCATION. BY SEEING PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT IT AND SEEING SIGNS ABOUT IT, VOTING WILL BECOME AN ISSUE. THEY WILL SEE IT AS THEIR RIGHT TO DO SO."

--SAU-KING CHAN

with the voting process. The City could also provide simultaneous interpretation equipment or establish a system where people could "order," in advance, a translator to be present for city council and school board meetings. Through either of these services, immigrants could have greater access to the meetings that affect their lives at the local level.

The Census will provide the information necessary to push for the second of Lowe's suggestions. If the Census shows a significant number of immigrant voters who need bilingual services, a possibility under the Voters Rights Act could be to require bilingual ballots and voter information. Also, in areas where there is not a particular immigrant majority, the City could offer more bilingual assistance. The CPA is working with a coalition of other local immigrant organizations to investigate the possibility of getting these bilingual documents in place.

This election will see some initiatives that may both help the Asian American community both on the long and short term. The Asian American Studies Program at University of Massachusetts-Boston will be conducting an exit poll amongst Asian voters, focusing on the Chinese, Vietnamese and Cambodians, at Chinatown, Dorchester, and Lowell voting locations. The poll will concentrate on assessing the need for bilingual assistance and getting a sense of what issues are important to these voters.

On the short term, the CPA has been conducting Voter Education Workshops, which will include a voting demonstration (with a model of the voting booth) and a non-partisan discussion of the ballot questions and the presidential candidates' positions. There will be two workshops after press time. The first will be at the Josiah Quincy School cafeteria (located at 885 Washington Street) on Saturday, November 4 from 1:00-3:00pm. The second will be on the 11th floor library in Stearns (located at 10 Temple Place) on Monday, November 6 at 2:00pm.

"We are inviting all voters to attend. We will help them learn what to expect when they go to vote, and we will walk them through the process. Also, we will go over the voter information, including candidates and the questions, in a non-partisan way," said Lowe.

Additionally, the 366 voters that the Association registered with the help of the Boston Votes 200 campaign will receive a copy of the voter information in the mail. Then, on Election Day, the CPA will provide the elderly with non-partisan transportation to the polls.

These above solutions can both increase voter turnout, through education, and improve the quality of the turnout, by helping voters both get the hard facts about the issues and raise their confidence by allowing

them the comfort of making their decisions in their native language. As for this election, not only will there be more voters in Chinatown, they may also be better informed than ever.

Blessing in disguise?

So, whether it was solely responsible for the increase in the number of voters within the Asian American community, the negative effects of the 1996 welfare and immigration reform legislation definitely shocked this community into mobilizing to an unprecedented degree. What's more, by working to improve turnout, organizations and individuals has been able to directly address the impediments to voting that arise. While, this is not to say that the language barrier will magically disappear and that every voter will be an educated one, the solutions are attainable.

"It's a long term process to teach the community how to educate themselves and make their own decisions on how to vote," said Lowe.

The end of voting can also be a beginning as illustrated by Chan's civic involvement in Chinatown. After all, she found herself on a street corner helping potential voters in her community.

"I always felt, being an Asian, that I'd help the community and myself get to the next step," said Chan.

For this election, a high voter turnout in Chinatown and other Asian communities would signify getting to a next step.

Voter Profile

Johnny Huey, 36
Restaurant worker

Johnny Huey is representative of the invigorated wave of voters in Chinatown. He came to the United States in 1989 and became a citizen in 1995. While renewing his driver's license, he registered to vote. Though he has not voted in a national election, he followed the two most recent presidential elections in 1992 and 1996. This year he has continued to educate himself on the issues.

"I read some English newspapers [as well as the Chinese press] and watch television. I watched the debates. I'm pretty interested in politics, but I don't always understand what is being said. I do understand what is being said about education, childcare and medicare [though]."

This attention to the candidate and issues has helped him form his own political opinions. He believes the Democrats represent the lower and middle-income people, so, come time to vote, he said that he would vote for the Democratic candidates. However, he won't align himself with one party; he considers himself an independent voter.

Huey values the right to vote, which, for him, means that you can "explain what you want to the government." He also believes that when he casts his vote this year it will make a difference.

Many people in Chinatown are ready for this election, according to Huey, thus making him and other voters no longer an exception, but, possibly, the rule in this community.

"People in Chinatown feel stronger than before. If you are not registered to vote, then you don't have the right to express your opinion. Now, many people are registered to vote."

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PEOPLE

Making Schools New

An Interview with Bak Fun Wong

By Eric William Schramm

He wouldn't take his jacket off. For three days the first-grader insisted on keeping it on when he got to school (Josiah Quincy Elementary School). Not being able to find a solution, the boy's teacher brought him to Bak Fun Wong, the school's principal.

"He was stubborn and wouldn't talk to me. For all of my training I thought I should be able to fix this," said Wong.

He looked at the situation from two different perspectives. "I could say to the child that you can take it off, or stay with me, or I could call your parents." This way, Wong noted, he would be abiding by the school's rules. On the other hand, "I could talk to him and find out what happened. This way would take time."

Wong chose to talk, to take the time. He struck a deal with the boy where he would continue doing his work while the boy sat quietly.

Finally, Wong broached the subject of getting something to eat. The boy began to talk. He said his mother was pregnant and he wanted to keep his jacket on so he would be ready to go to the hospital with her.

"We made a deal to call his mother every morning when he got to school and at lunch time," said Wong.

The boy took off his jacket and went back to class. After a couple of months, his mother had the child. Later, Wong said, he saw the boy with his mother at school. The boy showed Wong the baby and said to him, "here is my baby."

This anecdote illustrates the difference between Eastern and Western styles of education, according to Wong, who is now the principal of the Josiah Quincy Upper School. The Eastern style emphasizes the perfection of the individual, whereas the western style emphasizes the perfection of structure. In the above situation, Wong says he could have made a big mistake had he gone with his first option—forcing the boy to comply with the school rules. He chose to use the Eastern style by talking to the boy to find out how to help him.

Having studied education both in Hong Kong (Grantham College) and in the United States (Boston University), Wong relishes his position in the middle, at the nexus of the two different educational philosophies. However, being able to choose between the two is not the end.

"The combination of both is what is needed for the new world and new schools. It's not that one is better than the other is, but it's that they need to come together because the world is getting smaller. It's important to understand how the East does things and how the West does things in order to create a better world," said Wong. This combination is, simply, the essential aspect of his philosophy of education.

Wong became the principal of Josiah Quincy Upper School, a "pilot" school in the Boston Public School system, in 1999, the school's first year of operation. Currently made up of sixth and seventh grades, the Upper School has a total of 225 students. It will ultimately have classes through the twelfth grade.

As a "pilot" school, the Upper School is unique because it has been given the freedom to experiment and develop new approaches to public education. It is exempt from various School Department regulations, including union regulations, hiring practices, school hours and class size. This status has allowed the Upper School to have longer school days (8:30am to 4:30pm). It has also given Wong more control over selecting his teachers.

"I have great teachers who are able to talk about shifting paradigms," said Wong. These shifts in educational patterns have allowed teachers to reinvent their roles as collaborators and even learners and, subsequently, the roles the school plays in their students' lives. The Upper School looks to shift emphasis from instruction to construction, where interactive classrooms can result in a high quality of understanding.

The position of being able to spearhead change in public education through his work at the Upper School is an apt position for Wong. He has been involved as a teacher or principal in the Boston Public School system since settling in the United States in 1978. Most notably, he was the assistant principal and subsequently principal of the Josiah Quincy Elementary School from 1984-1998.

During the 1998-1999 school year, Wong served as the Deputy Superintendent for Clusters and School Leaders. In this position, Wong supervised, evaluated and provided support to principals and headmasters in the public school districts. He also supported the district's 10 clusters leaders.

While the principal of the Quincy School, the school



Bak Fun Wong, Principal of the Josiah Quincy Upper School.

and Wong were given several awards. In 1987, the U.S. Department of Education chose the Lower School as "One of the 200 most outstanding elementary schools in the country." Then, in 1990, a year of distinction for Wong, he was awarded the Thomas Report Points of Light Award (given for contributions in education), and the Citywide Parents Council gave him the Principal of the Year Award.

He has received more awards in this decade. In 1992, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau awarded Wong with the Henry Shattuck Award, which recognizes outstanding city employees. Later, in 1994, Boston University gave him its Alumni Award, and Wheelock College conferred upon him an Honorary Doctorate.

Wong has not only distinguished himself within his profession but as a volunteer as well. For the past five years, he has worked with the Asian American Civic Association (AACA) to plan and develop their adult education and employment and training programs.

His record of service does not end there, though. He has served on numerous non-profit boards including but not exclusive to the South Cove YMCA, the Chinese Economic Development Council, the Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Chinatown Trust Fund Committee, and the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church.

"Volunteer work is the purest form of service," said Wong. He believes that school and family cannot exist without harmony in society. This mutually dependent relationship is similar to that of a boat and the ocean, according to Wong.

He is also a founder of the Asian American Chinese Christian Education and Social Services, Inc. This organization provides social services like English as a second language, after school programs and women's tea times among other things to new immigrants.

Because of his far-reaching contributions to education in the Chinatown community, the AACA nominated Wong for a community award that will be presented to him at the Action for Boston Community Development's 26th Annual Community Awards dinner on Friday, November 3.

All of the recognition, while duly deserved, just scratches the surface of his long career as an educator and his devotion to his students. He began teaching at age 17, still a high school student in Hong Kong. While in college he continued to substitute and teach evening courses. With such a connection to the classroom, it is no wonder that he leapt at the opportunity to head the Upper School. Not only was it the right time to try out the "pilot" program, (school reform was openly welcomed by Thomas W. Payzant, superintendent of the Boston Public Schools), according to Wong, but he was intimately familiar with it. It was the project of one of Wong's friends in Hong Kong Dr. Wing Tai Leung. Leung has been using the system in the Breakthrough Village, a youth agency in Hong Kong.

"The proposal of the Upper School had been a

dream of mine, and it was crucial to the community and the school system. I felt an obligation to build the school. This is the challenge I needed to have," said Wong.

The school is important to the Chinatown community because it acknowledges the beauty and virtues of Eastern culture. Therefore, according to Wong, the school doesn't need to wholly Americanize itself or its students. Yet it can, as Wong has, combine the strengths of both educational philosophies.

The Upper School's curriculum, its most unique feature, is split up into four Pavilions. Together the pavilions exercise and challenge the whole person.

The Renewal Pavilion works on the students' overall well-being. It strives to help students identify what experiences they carry. "School should be a place where students find themselves," said Wong.

The Pathfinding Pavilion encourages students to find their own talents in the arts and to respect others' talents. Their creativeness is blended in to lessons that engage the students' multiple intelligences.

The Cultural Pavilion concentrates on world cultures, race and ethnicity. "We have so many things in common. So, we talk about the commonalities first. Then, we talk about the differences," said Wong, adding, "A lot of people don't appreciate other cultures because they don't know or appreciate their own." By concentrating on the similarities between students, the differences don't become so divisive. Through this Pavilion, students can continue to study Mandarin and, in the seventh grade, they can begin to study Spanish.

Finally, the Information Pavilion, which concentrates on science, technology and mathematics, helps students learn how to find, use and present information, rather than to collect knowledge solely from lectures and textbooks. Wong stressed that this pavilion is about the transformation of knowledge and answering questions about how to best use this knowledge.

"The four Pavilions are the essence of the combination of the Eastern and Western styles of education," said Wong.

Wong explained the effect of new innovations in education, like the Upper School's Pavilion curriculum, by using a metaphor. He sees his today's students as a new wine. They have properties and experiences that distinguish them from their counterparts ten years ago as well as those from last year. In order to help these students grow into themselves, they need a school that addresses their unique needs and capabilities. A school that insists on molding the students to its rigid system is a wineskin that will eventually crack and leak. According to Wong, it's the flexible wineskin that will best serve that which fills it.

This metaphor summons forth another for Wong. He sees people, himself and his students, as carrying around a basket with them.

"We carry what is put in us. It is such as pleasure to walk the distance with the youngsters," he said, adding, "It's important to take students as they are. They have to be the ones to decide what to take out and what to put in."

The Upper School, under Wong's guidance, is a place where some ideas about what schools should be like in the future will be tried, honed and possibly passed to other schools. Yet, he is concentrating on his school, his students for now.

"The students always get me going. They remind me of what a privilege it is to influence their lives and to be a part of their lives. They teach me and help me refine my philosophy of education," said Wong.

A lesson that his students have taught him is tangibly present on his calendar. It is dotted with stickers. Wong gives himself a sticker when he has accomplished his tasks for the day. He noted that this began when student gave him one for a job well done. Since that day, he has continued the practice for himself.

"I see the stickers and they help me to recognize accomplishments. The students need [to do this], and it can work for adults. It's important to be in touch with the students."

Keeping in touch with the students seems to be a lot of what Wong and the teachers of the Upper School are all about.

CALENDAR

Nov. 22-Dec. 2 (Tues. & Thur.) 10am-5pm: The S.T. Gallery, located at 16 Princeton Road, Malden, will co-host with the Asian Spectrum Program the Malden artsrendezvous. The monthlong event will offer tea art, art exhibitions, poetry readings, and musical performances. For more info, call the S.T. Gallery at 781/322-6851, or visit sandtgallery28@aol.com.

Nov. 3-Jan. 26 (every Fri.) 7-10pm: The Malden Badminton Association will sponsor year round practice sessions at the Salemwood School Gym, located at 529 Salem St., Malden. Bring a racket with you. For more info, call Lawrence Lo at 617/662-2653.

Nov. 4 (Sat.) 6pm: The South Cove Community Health Center will hold its **Jade Gala** auction and dinner at the Boston Tremont Hotel's Empire Ballroom, located at 275 Tremont St., Boston. For more info, call 617/521-6715.

Nov. 5 (Sun.) 3-5pm: The Maden Sawhney Charitable Trust presents Neena Gulati and the Triveni Ensemble in a classical **Indian dance performance** of the poetry of "Jaidev," narrated in English and accompanied by a live orchestra. The event will take place at the Wellesley Middle School auditorium, located at 55 Kingsbury Street, (off Route 9 and 16), Wellesley. Tickets are \$15; \$10 for children. For more info, call 781/237-0048.

Nov. 10 & 11 (Fri. & Sat.) 8pm: The Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, located at 4 Second St., presents **Aparna Sindhoor**, a dancer, choreographer, and stage/TV actress from Mysore, India. She uses dance, text, and singing to explore contemporary issues; she will perform three pieces of her work. Tickets are \$15 for general admission; \$12 for students, seniors & CMAC members; they are available one half hour before the performance. For more info, call 617/577-1400.

Nov. 11 (Sat.) 12-6pm: The MIT Vietnamese Students Association will sponsor the **Vietnamese American Culture Forum**, which will be the first forum dedicated to enriching the lives of Vietnamese American students. The event will be open to high school students, college undergraduates and graduate students. To register on-line, go to <http://web.mit.edu/vsa/www/symp00/registration.html>. For more info, contact Julie Nam Le: juls@mit.edu.

Nov. 13 (Mon.) 7-8:30pm: The Women's Center, located at 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, will host the **Women of Color Reading Circle**. The book will be *Kitchen* by Banana Yoshimoto. For more info, call 617/354-8807.

Nov. 14 (Tues.) 6-8pm: The Massachusetts Asian American Educators Association and the Quincy School Parent Council will present a **Storybook Reading and Conversation with Grace Lin**, author/illustrator of *The Ugly Vegetables* and illustrator of *Round is a Mooncake*. Buffet dinner and free copies of the MAAEA Curriculum Guide will be provided. RSVP to 781/789-9795 or email maaea5@aol.com.

Nov. 16 (Thur.) 8pm; Nov. 18 (Sat.) 2pm:

The Asian American Resource Workshop and the Museum of Fine Arts will present **Deann Borshay Liem's First Person Plural**, a personal documentary exploring assimilation, adoption, cultural differences, American attitudes and mistaken identity. Showings of the 57-min. film will be in the Remis Auditorium, located at 465 Huntington Ave., Boston. Tickets are \$7 for students, seniors, MFA members; \$8 for general admission. They are available at the MFA box office (617/369-3770) or 24-hour automated ticket line 617/369-3306. For more info, call the AARW at 617/426-5313 or visit workshop@aarw.org.

Greater Boston Legal Services

Attorney position Family Law Unit. One attorney position will carry a family law caseload, representing victims of domestic violence in custody, visitation and child support cases in divorce and paternity proceeding. The attorney will also be involved in community education and outreach activities and other advocacy efforts on behalf of victims of domestic violence. Admission to the Massachusetts Bar or comity or pending Bar exam results required. Experience in domestic relations work and/or working with victims of domestic violence and **bilingual** ability preferred but not required. **JOB CODE: BWLAP**

Temporary Attorney in the Asian Outreach Unit of GBLS to work on the Cambodian Outreach Project. The goal of the project is to expand the Cambodian American community's access to existing legal services available to low income individuals. The COP project targets the Lowell and Lynn communities where there are high concentrations of Cambodian Americans. Job responsibilities include supervising a paralegal in intake and case handling, representing clients on immigration, consumer and general poverty law matter, implementing community legal education workshops on immigration and consumer matters, liaison among the several collaborators and reporting to funders. Qual: minimum of 1 to 5 years of legal experience, admitted to the Massachusetts Bar, or is eligible to take the next Massachusetts Bar examination and is eligible to practice under SJC Rule 3:04 (Attorneys from other jurisdiction practice rule). Experience working with the Southeast Asian refugee and immigrant community strongly preferred. **Bilingual** in an Asian language (Khmer preferred) and a strong understanding of Asian culture required. Superior interpersonal skills experience working on collaborative projects and administering grant-funded project desirable. **JOB CODE: ATTYCOP**

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He's a police detective, who during Desert Storm served in the U.S. Army's Armored Calvary.

She's your neighbor's daughter, who just got out of the Navy and now works at a high-tech firm.

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Letter to the Editor

October 13, 2000

To the Editor,

We are writing to thank all of the local businesses that participated in "Kindergarten Days" last month. During the four days prior to the start of school, 108 Boston businesses offered celebratory and educational gifts to children wearing their new t-shirts that proclaimed, "I'm going to kindergarten" on the front. The participating businesses in Chinatown this year included: Sun Sun Company, Eldo Cake House and Cathay Corner.

"Kindergarten Days" is part of a citywide initiative called COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN. COUNTDOWN helps children prepare to make the transition into school, and helps families prepare for their important role as partners in their children's education. We thank the participating "Kindergarten Days" businesses for letting children know that we are behind them succeeding in school and throughout their lives.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

Thomas W. Payzant
Superintendent, Boston Public Schools

ELECTION

Information on the Ballot Questions

All questions and opinions in this summary are from *The Official Massachusetts Information for Voters booklet*, published by William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth. The Chinese Progressive Association wrote up the summary.

There will be eight questions on the ballot. You may vote yes or no.

1. Earlier Redrawing of Districts for State Representatives and Senators.

Every 10 years, the Census is used to redraw districts, which determines how many elected officials each district has. Now, the new districts are made four years after the Census count.

A YES vote means: the new districts should be drawn two years after the Census.

A NO vote means: the new districts should still be drawn four years after the Census.

2. Voting by People in Jail for Felonies

This amendment proposes that people in jail for felonies lose their right to vote in state elections.

A YES vote means: felons have no vote in state elections.

* If people have committed a crime, they lose their freedom. They should also lose their right to vote.

A NO vote means: everyone has the right to vote in state elections, including felons.

* The state Constitution says that people who are in jail still have the right to vote. Taking away a prisoner's right to vote will not change anything in society. We should not change the Constitution if it doesn't interfere with democracy.

3. Dog Racing

This law would make any gambling on dog races illegal.

A YES vote means: gambling on dog races should be illegal.

* Taxes that people pay are used to subsidize dog racing. Revenue from dog racing has dropped 70% in the past 10 years. We should not use taxes to support dog racing.

* Dog racing is cruel to animals.

A NO vote means: gambling on dog races is okay.

* Thousands of people will lose their jobs.

* The way that dogs are treated obeys guidelines about animal welfare.

4. Income Tax Reduction

Question 4 proposes to reduce the income tax in Massachusetts over 3 years. It would be 5.6% in 2001, 5.3% in 2002, and 5% in 2003.

A YES vote means: income taxes should be reduced over 3 years.

* This tax reduction will money back to working people

* Politicians promised this tax cut 11 years ago and they should keep their word.

A NO vote means: there should be no change in income taxes.

* The tax cut will benefit wealthy people the most.

* The money from income taxes is used to improve schools and health care. We should not cut money for important services.

5. Health Insurance and Health Care

This law would prevent non-profit health care providers from becoming for-profit as long as any Massachusetts residents are uninsured

A YES vote means: health insurance providers should guarantee certain rights to their patient. Non-profit health care providers should not be allowed to become for-profit until all Massachusetts residents have comprehensive health care.

* It would guarantee that by July 2002 no Massachusetts resident could be denied medical care because of a lack of insurance

* It would require that health care costs in Massachusetts be controlled.

A NO vote means: there should be no change in the laws (non-profit health care providers can become for-profit)

* The law would increase health insurance rates.

* The law would create 2 new government offices with no limits to their spending.

6. Tax Credits for Tolls and Vehicle Excise Taxes

This law would give tax credits for tolls and vehicle excise taxes.

A YES vote means: you would pay the excise tax and the tolls, but you can get your money back through the tax credit.

* The state does not need to collect money from people to own a car and to drive on the Mass Pike.

* The state has a budget surplus and funding will not be affected if people get a tax credit for excise taxes and

tolls.

A NO vote means: there would be no tax credit for excise taxes and tolls.

* The proposal just creates more bureaucracy for little savings.

* We should use tax money to help improve Massachusetts's schools and health care.

7. Tax Deduction for Donors

This law would create a state income tax deduction when donating to charity.

A YES vote means: people should get a state personal income tax deduction if they give money to charity. This is in addition to the federal income tax deduction that they get now.

* This proposal encourages people to give to charity.

A NO vote means: there should be no change in the tax law. People can still get a federal income tax deduction but no state deduction.

* People can avoid taxes by giving to charity outside of Massachusetts. That way Massachusetts receives no benefits even though people can get a tax deduction.

* Wealthy people can use a loophole in the proposal to set up their own charity foundation, make a donation to that foundation, and get a tax deduction even though they can use their donation for personal expenses.

8. Drug Treatment and Drug Fines

This law would create a state "Drug Treatment Trust Fund" which could be used to treat addicts. Fines from drug-related crimes would go into this fund. Any property seized from drug-related crimes would also be sold and the money put into this fund.

A YES vote means: the state should create a fund to treat people who are addicted to drugs. This money would be in addition to Federal funding for drug treatment.

* Lots of people addicted to drugs go to jail for drug crimes, which costs taxpayers lost of money. Instead, we should spend the money on treatment programs, which are more effective.

A NO vote means: the state should not establish this fund and that there should be no change in the current laws.

* It will benefit drug dealers because they can choose "treatment" instead of going to jail, and will have no criminal record.

* It will make it difficult for police to investigate drug crimes.

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VOICES

A Tribute to Students. A Call for Volunteers.

By Bill Dodson

This is a tribute to the class of individuals who gave me one of the most rewarding experiences of my life: teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in Chinatown. After over ten years of living in Boston and spending two of the last teaching English in Chinatown, I am moving to Chicago. I hope through this article to encourage other individuals--Chinese and non-Chinese--to contribute some of their time so they too may have the opportunity to enrich the lives of others and gain more gifts of friendship than they could have dreamed of in any of their previous professional or volunteer roles.

First Contact

My first night of teaching English at the Chinese Pastoral Center on Tyler Street in Chinatown was electric. It was Fall 1998. I had been studying Mandarin for a year already, though most of my students would be Cantonese speakers.

One woman's story about why she wanted to improve her English touched me deeply. She was a middle-aged woman, I recall, white-skinned, smiling and talkative. Her story went something like this: she had just started a job at a major American hotel in downtown Boston. She and the other new hires had to follow the American manager around the hotel for a tour of the facilities. The American manager had told them all to follow him closely, something she well understood. She hadn't caught his cue when he had asked the group to wait for him for a moment while he went off to take care of something. She dutifully followed the man past the first door he pushed through, then through the second and into men's washroom. Of course, she was shocked and embarrassed; he was embarrassed and amused; and the class found it all hysterically funny.

Over time the class would stabilize into a core of about ten or twelve people I would see two times a week, directly after my daily work as a management consultant. There were times, it seemed, when the only thing that kept my optimism up through a work-week was engaging this group of individuals whose lives, I knew, were more difficult than mine. After all, I was the Ivy League-educated American who was fluent in English in the country of his birth. The others were all immigrants, many of them over the age of forty, who had left their homeland, their families, perhaps even their professions to work at menial jobs at low pay and little respect from mainstream America. Their lack of college degrees and fluency in English made their realization of self-determination in the Land of Opportunity particularly harrowing.

Yes, I would think to myself almost every day over the past two years, "I am a fortunate man." I found myself always asking, "what can I do to share my small wealth, which has very little to do with money--for I haven't got that much--but everything to do with what I know of and take for granted as an American citizen."

I decided then that the greatest contribution I could make to the class was to help them all feel more comfortable when they had to deal with Americans as individuals and with American institutions: banks, hospitals, restaurants, the workplace. I could create a "safe-zone" for the students so they would feel comfortable dealing with an American and with things American. Further, as a black American, I wanted them to also have a positive contact with someone from a segment of this society that is seldom perceived as a "model" of much that is constructive.

The Deal

"The Deal is this," I told the sea of curious faces my first night of teaching. "I teach you English, and you teach me Cantonese." The class loved that deal. The most gratifying bit of Cantonese I picked up from the class involved banking. "This is the 'teller', this is the 'security guard'," I would say slowly, and the class would repeat after me. And so it went: deposit slip, withdrawal slip, paycheck, etc. Then I said, "And when you want to rob the bank, you say, 'OK, this is a stick-up! Put up your hands!'" and thrust my arms in the air. Full participation always the order of the day, the students held their sides from splitting open with laughter and repeated after me. "OK," I said, my hands still in the air, if I walk into one of the Chinatown Banks, how do I say this in Cantonese?" There was a point after the first five minutes of the Cantonese lesson in which I thought I'd never to get them to practice English again, but the effort was worth it. From then on, whenever a new student came to the class, I would practice saying in Cantonese, "This is a stick-up!" Mystified, they would simply smile at me and frown at the student next to them, who would be laughing into her hand.

Beyond the Call

But my relationship as this group's English teacher went far beyond my just helping the students within the classroom. In a couple of instances, requests from students became suprisingly personal: helping one student deal with a sexual harrassment situation at a large multinational corporation she worked for; and helping another student to move her worldly possessions from one apartment to another. Sometimes, students would call me in the middle of the evening at my home, just to practice certain English statements for a job interview the next day.

Extending myself in these ways was never a hardship for me, and always a joy: what I'll call my sense of "appreciated contribution". However, one thing I severely under-estimated was the degree of appreciation students would express. Students would honor me by asking me to give an English name to their newborn or to their young child; or they would bring to class a plastic bag for me from home or from a local Chinatown eatery--dinner for

the evening. Sometimes, there would be so much food students would bring, I'd have several nights' worth of dinners. They would also ask their families in Hong Kong to take care of me when I visited the city.

The Future

I hope this encapsulation of my experience teaching ESL in Boston Chinatown inspires others to pick up the mantle and to contribute to one of the most worthy causes I can imagine: adult education. This is not a role that needs to be restricted to Chinese who speak fluent Cantonese, either; nor to Americans who have hundreds of hours of teaching experience behind them. The formula for success seems to simply be to show you care enough to take the time to listen to what the students need: patience, respect, an understanding of compassion and a tremendous sense of humor. Then you have to deliver with sincerity.

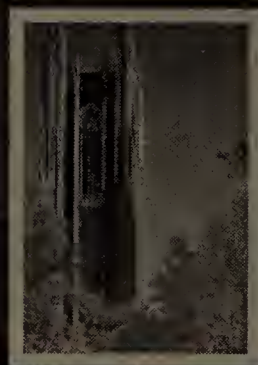
Teaching ESL in Chinatown also takes courage, whether the teacher is American or Chinese. The students will come to like you and respect you if you stay on; they will want to build a relationship with you. They will expect you to hold up your end of the friendship. And if you have any obligations out to them, they will hope you will honor your word. Certainly, as an American, I have grown considerably in my own capacity for friendship.

I don't know if I'll be teaching ESL to Chinese in Chicago. My time in Boston Chinatown was so special to me, it would be like a widower taking on a new wife though he still held deep feelings for his first partner. Still, I may return to Boston in the future--near or far.

And if one day you are walking down Kneeland Street and hear behind you in mangled Cantonese, "This is a stick-up. Put your hands in the air!" Relax... it's only a crazy gwailo happy to be home.

For my friends: Father Como, Millie, Albert, Mary, Josephine, Hoi, Magdeline, Maria, Bik, Ling, Ping, the Lindas, Jian Zhen and her son Allan, Mr. and Mrs. Chan, Lai Feng, Fang, Sai Fa and her son Bini, Mr. Yang, Wen Qiu, her extended family, and her son Wesley, and the dozens of other students who passed in front of my whiteboard at 78 Tyler Street.

Bill Dodson is working on a book entitled *Black Rice: An African American's Conversations with Chinese on American Culture, Identity and Race*. He can be reached at silkroadcomm@altavista.com.



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十月二十二日陳素藝廊開幕式。上圖為陳建業小朋友，在演奏揚琴，下圖為徐欽俊先生在表演茶道。

人之間的依賴在減少，然而人對「非人」：機器，的依賴在增加。這既是好事，也使得許多人走得過遠，而變得不知如何與他人建立交流，因而感到孤獨，以至日久身心受創。

美國生活節奏之快為世界第一，超量人口的比例也居世界第一；快餐在美國首先興起，年輕一代常常是快餐一代，也是肥胖比例最高的一代。原因何在？父母工作日長，孩子們沒有機會坐在餐桌邊，一邊與父母談天說地，一邊享用母親親手烹調的營養均衡，色、香、味俱佳的美食，而是順便在街角快餐店買點什麼，然後就邊吃，邊看電視，或玩電腦，一旦坐下，就是幾個小時才起身。這樣的生活方式焉得不肥！

然而，傳統中醫中，有相當一部分其實是講平衡生活，身心的「預防醫學」。古老的中醫使得我們思考我們的生活方式疾病，也使得我們思考當今社會的疾病。社會與人的互動，借助了古老智慧的眼光而有了新的進展，古老的醫學也在新時代面臨的挑戰中重新煥發了青春。

中西醫結合，對許多困擾於其中的病患者來說，是他們的希望。

另一方面，像蕭醫生這樣在東西方優秀大醫的傳授和薰陶中拼命吸收了多年的營養，又跨越了幾個不同的領域的中西醫人才一定不少。衷心希望有更多的優秀人才在這個領域裏出現，造福人類。

政府尋求 禁止

在雞飼料中使用

抗生素

華盛頓十月二十八日——政府正在倡議禁止在禽類飼料裏添加主要的兩種抗生素，因為有證據表明這些抗生素導致人們因感染對這些抗生素有抵抗力的細菌而生病。

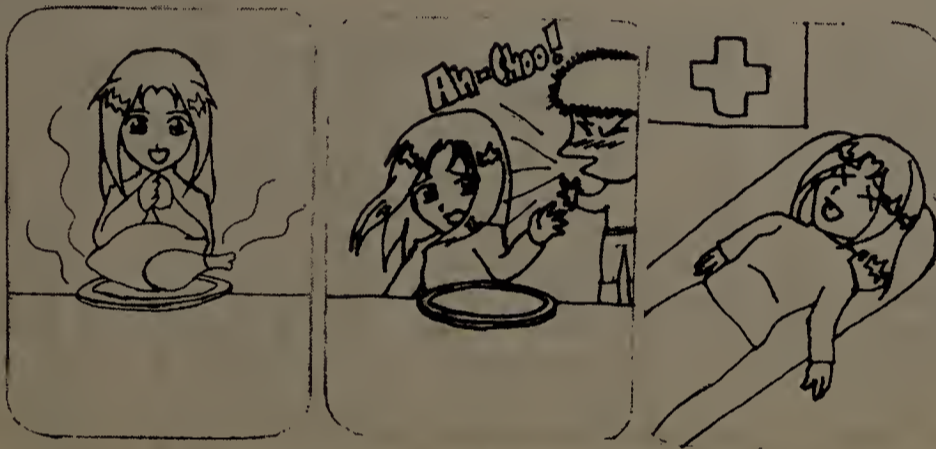
伊州北芝加哥的 Abbott 實驗室，是這兩種抗生素的製造商之一，同意停止生產並撤回所有產品，但是匹茲堡的 Bayer 公司，作為該市場主要供應商，表示可能上訴。

食品藥品管理局說，這些藥品，叫做 fluoroquinolones，是導致人類感染有抵抗力的 campylobacter 菌的「主要原因」，而這些病菌得以侵入人體，主要是由於食用雞肉所致。

Campylobacter 菌每年引發大約一百八十萬例病案，十九萬是用抗生素治療的。今年這些病案中的大約一萬一千例是由於對藥品有抵抗力的病菌引起的，而去年是九千例。F.D.A.「食品藥品管理局」獸醫藥中心的負責人 Steve Sunlof 在十月二十七日說。

(彭莎譯自十月廿九日《紐約時報》)

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菌，現存病毒和細菌就發生了變異，適應了這種抗生素，致使這種抗生素在此環境下失效。再有，雞飼料中加入抗生素，刺激雞只生長特別迅速，讓肉用雞飼養業大賺消費者的錢。然而，在食物鏈的末端的雞肉食用者，在大快朵頤之後，卻也吞下了大量的抗生素。其結果，一旦經過變異的病毒或細菌侵入該人，此類抗生素在這類病者身上就此失靈。因為，他體內的病毒和細菌已經適應了此類抗生素。「請讀者參考本期引自《紐約時報》的報道」。近年來，有許多例病案，都因為抗生素的過度使用而十分棘手，甚至發生無藥可用而死亡的病案。再如，肺結核「舊稱肺癆」近年來在全球死灰復燃，大有卷土重來的洶湧氣勢，在美國這樣富裕發達的國家，竟也一時引發了恐慌。這在很大程度上都是由於五六十年代發明的特效藥失靈所致。

地球的微生物環境，與人類視野可以看見的自然環境一樣，是十分錯綜複雜，十分脆弱的。人類如果自以為已經參透自然的奧秘，「人定勝天」，那麼無數的生態災難應該讓人們清醒一下了。

認識到這一點的西方人士在近年越來越多，所謂「替代療法」的觀念也越來越為人所接受。據統計，大約百分之三十至百分之五十的美國人都使用至少一種形式的替代療法。

聶醫生現在的病人大多數都是美國人，這也從一個角度反應了這一醫學和社會現象。

聶醫生的醫學理念與治療特色

聶醫生是四川宜賓人。父親是醫生，母親是教師，姐姐也是醫生。

「我父親是先學中醫，後學西醫，我姐姐正好相反。她學完西醫再學中醫，就學得很苦。所以，她建議我先學中醫，後學西醫，我父親也是這個觀點。」聶醫生說。

由於「政審」不過關，聶澤潭不能實現上重點大學的夢想，遂以第一志願被成都中醫學院錄取，十五歲下鄉，高考時已經二十二歲，而因政治因素，夢想再次受挫，「這一系列因素詮釋了聶澤潭後來「十數年寒窗」的奮鬥精神。

「中醫確實有西醫無法取代的優勢。我從小看到父親，姐姐給人治病，感到中西醫應該結合起來，這樣效果最好。西醫解決具體病癥，見效快，而中醫辯證治療，全面考慮，能有助於最大限度地優化人體機制。」聶醫生說。

「對慢性病，中醫的療法往往最合適。比如，慢性疲勞症，一些功能性疾病，一些心理因素誘發的紊亂症，如，抑鬱，焦慮症，以及月經病，絕經前綜合反應症，以及與此相關的情緒紊亂等等。不過，就大多數疾病來說，綜合中西醫來治療還是最好的。」聶醫生進一步解釋道。

「比如，有一次，有一位非洲裔女病人，三十多歲，老覺得喉間似有東西，吐不出，吞不下，十分不適，影響到日常生活。輾轉各科，各種檢查都做了，就是查不出任何異常。這種情況已經有一年多，所有的醫生都束手無策。最後，轉到我這兒來，我很快就診斷出，這是「梅核氣」，古籍早有記載，是由於肝氣鬱結所致。服用湯藥不出一月，該病人就徹底痊癒了。另外一個例子是，有位病人，腰痛，也是查不出原因。到我這兒來後，我見他疼得異常，下肢也無力，我就懷疑不是簡單的肌肉或骨骼的問題，馬上就在我的診室為他做了核磁共振，果然，是腫瘤，而且已經發展到淋巴上去了。這些診斷和治療就是基於我的中西醫知識而達成的，」聶醫生介紹道。

聶醫生八年的基礎研究，集中在分子細胞水平上探究人體運作的奧秘，同時良好的中醫辯證思維訓練又使他能夠不至於迷失在細節中，而是能夠「既見木，又見林」。一方面借助西醫的儀器進行實體診斷，一方面也用宏觀辯證的中醫眼光感受到儀器探測不到的一些癥狀之間的關聯。治療上，也是雙管齊下，用西藥做大將，用中藥調和陰陽平衡，經常根據具體情況，各有側重。

離開故鄉已經十六年了，聶澤潭的普通話仍然有著濃鬱的「川味」，讓我這個「半個四川人」聽得份外親切。在我長期的採訪過程中，聶醫生不斷需要打工作電話。他的英語流利，清晰，話語敏捷，語調平和，給人穩沉可靠親切的感覺。另外，聶醫生

的語言能力表格裏，不應該少了一項：瑞典語。

「語言是工具」。也是信息，也是力量，在醫生的手裏，還可以是救命的神物。借助中文，聶澤潭可以查閱古籍，可以利用兩岸三地浩如煙海的中醫藥人才信息資源，不斷獲取最新中醫藥動態；英文就更不用說了，當今人類知識的百分之八十是用英語記載的，而西方醫學可以毫不誇張地說，是以英語作載體的。

聶澤潭掌握的不僅是三門語言，也意味著他能夠自由地在東西方兩種思維體系中，根據他自己的判斷能力來「換位思考」。

同時，聶醫生說，「我在運動生理學以及生物化學方面的多年研究，有助於我有效地向我的病人提供正確的預防性和康復性體能鍛煉的建議，幫助他們改善生活方式。」

聶醫生表示自己比較擅長婦女病。聶醫生現在正在研究利用針灸催產，並糾正胎位。傳統西醫使用的催產素，屬於激素類，通過靜脈滴注，輸入血管，對產婦及胎兒都有一定的副作用。針灸的催產原理是可以誘發子宮收縮，產婦可以自行分娩，而不需要借助外力。

「作為中國人，我也十分希望能為自己的同胞治病。現在我的病人基本上都是美國人。如果中國病人來看病，我們的語言交流會更方便，更有助於準確診斷和治療。」聶醫生很願意借助本報採訪的機會，向各位同胞致意。

中西醫結合大有可為

現代人不愁衣食，卻因為我們的物質追求，以及肉體享受，一方面，將自己的體能，心理承受力推入極端，出現了許多焦慮症，抑鬱症等「現代病」，一方面又出現肥胖等由於出入乘車，快節奏的生活，就在辦公桌邊吞下的快餐等生活方式引起的「富貴病」。

美國在這方面首當其衝：互聯網把世界進一步變小，同時它也是知識的加速發生器，連鎖反應，信息！信息！不斷地轟擊著人們的大腦！我的房子，我的車子，我的股票！！這一切的一切，都在以瘋狂的速度衝擊著人們，讓你無處逃避。現代物質生活也提供了個人獨立生活的方便，人與

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中西醫結合是方向

——專訪聶澤潭醫生

彭莎

今年初，在牛頓威爾斯醫院，人們注意到在穿白大褂的醫生中，有了一張新面孔，一位中國人。這位新來的醫生就是聶澤潭醫生。他有一副明朗，熱情的笑容，予人以自信，精力充沛的印象。

聶醫生是牛頓威爾斯醫院的主治醫生，在治療中，以西醫為主，輔之以中醫特有的診斷治療方式，如「望，聞，問，切」，以及較為西方人所熟悉的針灸，草藥等。

加盟牛頓威爾斯醫院年僅半年，聶醫生已經廣受病人歡迎。聽說了聶醫生獨特的行醫方式，記者採訪了這位在西式醫學理論和實踐佔絕對主導地位的英國主流社會醫院中進行「中西醫結合」的聶澤潭醫生。

獨特的中西醫學習和研究的背景

與許多醫生相似的是，聶澤潭醫生也有一張長長的履歷表；然而，與許多醫生不同的是，聶醫生的學醫起點卻是中醫，然後是西醫。

聶澤潭是中國恢復高考後的首批大學生，十分著名的「七七級」。八二年春，畢業於成都中醫學院，即因成績優異，而留校任教。同年夏，參加全國出國預備研究生考試，在四百多人的中醫藥專業考試中，名列第一。經過一年的外語培訓，聶澤潭赴瑞典卡羅林斯庫斯學院學習運動生理學。

對行外人來說，卡羅林斯庫斯學院這個名稱似乎頗為耳生，但是諾貝爾獎卻是盡人皆知。而該學院即是諾貝爾醫學獎選拔委員會供職之處。經過五年的刻苦學習和嚴格的专业訓練，一九八九年聶澤潭獲得該學院運動生理學博士學位。聶澤潭已經在打點行裝，準備回國報效祖國時，「六四」爆發。

聶澤潭轉而向幾所美國大學申請攻讀博士。幾家大學同時接受了他。當

他已經選擇科羅拉多大學分子細胞發展博士項目後，哈佛醫學院細胞生物學系的教授也到了。聶澤潭不願空拂他人好意，還是去了科州，然而哈佛醫學院願意為他保留該項獎學金兩年。於是，兩年後（一九九一年），聶澤潭來到波士頓，在哈佛醫學院進行骨髓肌蛋白代謝分子生物學機制的研究。

九三年，聶澤潭考取了臨床行醫執照。九四年，聶澤潭的一項研究成果獲得美國專利「肌肉細胞培養液」。九五年，聶澤潭博士成為聶醫生。在UMass Medical School的Berkshire



聶澤潭醫生

接受了中國正規中醫學院的培訓，又一口氣喝了十年洋墨水兒，再加上行醫五、六年——聶澤潭醫生本人簡直就是「中西醫結合」這一理想的現身說法。

當前西方醫學的困境和替代療法的興起

西方醫學從古希臘 Hippocratic 時期發展到今天，已經可以像玩魔術一般，為人體出了毛病的器官進行「拆卸，更換」……眼睛有毛病？換一只就得！腎臟不好？來一只新的如何？心臟？讓另一個年輕的心在你的胸膛裏跳動！也已經不只是躺在紙上的詩行。至於被貶稱為「塑料外科」的整容手術也一直在十分活躍地不僅改變著諸多個人的「人體風景線」，實際上也在改造著全體人類的景觀。下一步麼，只差換一換腦袋了。

醫療中心，聶醫生在九七至九八年間，同時獲得兩項榮譽及獎勵：年度住院醫獎和年度教學獎。兩種十分不同的榮譽及獎勵同時頒布於同一人，這還是十分少見的。

年度住院醫獎委員會這樣說，該獎之頒布，「是基于聶醫生對人類，對病人的責任感，與團隊的合作，對醫療事業的奉獻精神，熱心傳授，對醫學教育的熱誠和臨床實踐的能力」。

九八年，聶醫生加入 Harvard-Yan guard Medical Association，今年初，轉入牛頓威爾斯醫院醫生陣容，既做門診，也管理住院病人，同時擔當臨床指導。

然而，驕傲的大自然之子挑戰了大自然的同時，也被自己的行為深深困擾：西醫藥的副作用。器官可以換，但從此也必須依賴於許多藥物，而這些藥物又常常引發其他疾病。另外，如濫用抗生素的問題。自二戰後期以來，抗生素成為人類對抗疫病的無往不克的戰神。而其中最為人所熟知的是盤尼西林，在中國叫青霉素。然而，大量使用抗生素，固然殺得某一類病菌或細菌一時似乎十分乾淨，卻使得某些病菌有了天敵，客觀上促使了一些病菌的過度繁殖，引發了其他一些疾病。另一方面，由於病毒和細菌的變異能力，行將死亡的病毒和細菌將信息傳給了抗生素尚未殺到的病毒和細菌。

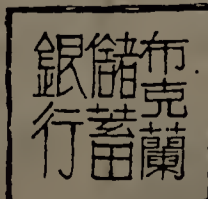
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CHINATOWN

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走出來，帶回去

廣州日報集團向哈佛燕京圖書館贈書

彭 莎



發言者為黎小江；照片最右邊者為黎元江

黃卓堅女士特別指出，該集團的迅速發展與集團負責人黎元江的前瞻眼光和管理才能密不可分。

《廣州日報》集團代表團於十月二十七日星期五下午在哈佛燕京圖書館舉行贈書儀式。該活動是《廣州日報》集團近年來一系列改革開放戰略的新銳舉措之一，旨在建立與海外的廣泛聯繫，加強文化交流，使《廣州日報》進一步成為具有全球意識的大報，並以此帶動整個集團的全方位發展。

下午兩點鐘開始的贈書儀式由哈佛燕京圖書館鄭炯文館長主持，《廣州日報》集團負責人黎元江，廣州社會科學院副院長李明華以及廣州出版社負責人黎小江等分別代表聯合贈書的三個機構做了簡短的發言。

這次贈書活動是雙方首次合作，由哈佛燕京圖書館指定書目，鄭館長介紹道。書目涵蓋面很廣，社會科學和人文學科幾乎都有，文學類的詩歌，小說，散文，紀實文學等等，歷史類包括地方誌等，以及經濟，政治，哲學，法律等等，主要由廣州出版社出版，另外還有廣州社會科學院近年的研究成果以及一些書畫家的作品等，內容十分豐富，總計一千五百冊左右。

《廣州日報》是中國的首家報業集團，集團負責人黎元江介紹說。該集團下轄十三份報紙，四個雜誌，一個出版社以及大洋網站。「成為報業集團就意味著允許你賺錢，」黎元江說，「《廣州日報》是黨報，實際上沒人愛看。我們靠新聞，靠服務，爭取在有限空間做到最好，做到了群眾非常歡迎，管理部門也能接受這一程度。」

該報採訪主任黃卓堅女士介紹說，在十年間，《廣州日報》變了面貌。現在在廣州，如果你去報攤買報，遞過錢去，如果不特別聲明，攤主自然會遞給你《廣州日報》。現在在六百萬人的廣州市，該報有百分之五十的覆蓋面，在三千八百萬的珠江三角洲則有百分之九十五的覆蓋面。該集團匯聚了大批高素質人才，許多都具有博士學位。並且進口了最先進的印刷設備，印刷質量在中國居前列。

社區簡訊

• 流亡法國的大陸作家高行健獲頒2000年諾貝爾文學獎。十月十四日在奧斯陸舉行了藝文國際「文化」系列第一講「重新聚焦或繼續失焦」，就高行健獲獎談起，討論當代中國文學或藝術在西方的境遇。該座談會由朱容女士主持，詩人孟浪和畫家秦風作引引人，學者鄭達，陸惠風，詩人貝嶺，畫家袁佐為講評人，三十多位人士濟濟一堂，侃侃而談。

• 昆士市規劃及社區發展部門房屋整修辦公室為低收入家庭提供資金資助及低息貸款，詳情請電 617-376-1050，其地址位於1305 Hancock Street, Quincy。

• 波士頓社區發展協會將於十一月三日晚六時在 Sheraton Boston Hotel and Towers，舉行授獎晚宴，表彰 Bak Fun Wong, John I. Harrington & Donald F. Law 和 Sarah-Ann Shaw 以及其他二十一位波士頓社區的居民，表彰他們數年來自覺奉獻，積極從事多種義務工作。華美福利會主席兼地產經紀 Bak Fun Wong 這位教育專家，在過去五年中幫助華美福利會設計他們的成人基礎教育以及職業培訓項目，做出了很大的貢獻。波士頓社區發展協會還將在該會的名譽欄裏寫上 John I. Harrington & Donald F. Law 的名字，表彰他們多年來從資金等方面的大力支持，並為 Sarah-Ann Shaw 授予終生成就獎。

• 麻州醫療協會宣布2000-2001年的麻州醫療協會社區行動獎將授予「受支持的婦女」這一項目。該項目將獲得一萬五千元來擴展他們對波士頓地區生活在此護處的婦女及其孩子以及住在街頭的婦女的醫療以及其他幫助，並用以喚起人們對無家可歸者的關注等活動。

• Dana-Farber/Partners Cancercare 將於十一月舉辦兩個關於預防癌症的講座：八日晚六點至八點，在舉辦關於關於預防直腸癌的講座。直腸癌是美國發病率最高的癌症之一，也是最容易預防的，十五日晚六點至八點在 Dana-Farber/Partners Cancercare 學院的舉辦題目為「高危因素，預防方式以及早期發現」的關於預防肺癌的講座。

• 「少林武師」表演團將於十一月四日晚八時在波士頓 O'Connell 大劇場 (Hamilton Place) 舉行。

• 陳素雲與摩頓亞太聯盟合作舉辦「品茗，藝展，吟詩，賞樂」活動，自十月二十二日至十二月二日，在摩頓陳素雲藝廊舉辦。參加的藝術家有貝嶺，陳建業，秦風，徐欽俊，高洛謫，劉繼明，劉曉丹，孟浪，莫逆，陳素，汪衛星，黃家智，吳劍心等。十月二十二日的開幕式節目。詳情請電 781-322-6831。

• 波士頓公園將於十一月十五日晚六點正式開放青蛙池塘滑冰池。

• 「擁抱台灣攝影展」自十月三十一日在僑教中心展出，由臺北光華雜誌社與駐波士頓臺北辦事處合辦。

• 華埠社區議會每月第三週的星期一下午六時在華埠夏里臣街一二五號天主教堂舉行。

• 華埠安全委員會會議於每月第一週的星期三上午十時半，在華埠華盛頓街八八八號華信屋會議室舉行。

• 中華耆英會將於每月第二週的星期五舉行「人生」生日會。詳情請電 617-789-4289，李小姐。

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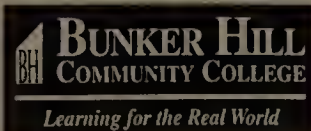
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天籟之音

——記旅美中國古箏藝術家秦君

古心圣

進入秋天的新英格蘭地區，週末閒暇的人們紛紛涌向郊外享受紅楓時節美不勝收的湖光山色，而在新英格蘭的藝文重鎮波士頓城中，則是各路藝術家們施展才藝一年一度的黃金季的開始。來自中國大陸、現居波士頓的古箏藝術家秦君就是他們當中特別出色的一位。

十月二十二日，在波士頓同樣具有深厚歷史文化影響的中國城，一所旨在培養中國民樂人才、弘揚中華傳統藝術的藝術教育機構——中國音樂學校成立。當天隆重的慶祝晚會演出中，秦君的古箏獨奏《秦桑曲》、《雪中燕》一下子征服了到場的中外人士，讓眾人深深地陶醉於中國古箏藝術的悠遠古雅之美。

古箏是中國最古老的彈撥樂器之一，在兩千多年前的秦代就開始流行，據考證至唐代更風靡朝野。作為真正源自漢民族的本土樂器，古箏經過歷代古箏藝術家和製造師的傳承、改良與發展，此稀世之寶更趨精良和完美，自近代起即獲西方人士的“中國古鋼琴”之譽。中國在五十年前開始才于音樂學院中陸續設有古箏專業，專門培養古箏人才，但每屆招收的學生卻屈指可數。所以，優良的古箏藝術家在中國人數不在少數的音樂工作者隊伍中幾近鳳毛麟角，極為罕見。

秦君自幼習琴，師承蜀中大師李珂，少年時代起在四川成渝地區民樂界即嶄露頭角。一九八八年畢業於四川音樂學院民樂系古箏專業後應邀常年擔任中國峨嵋電影樂團首席古箏獨奏。在八、九十年代中，她是中國大陸最優秀的青年古箏演奏家之一，同時她也是一位知名的古箏藝術教育家，曾獲得國



秦君在演奏

際華夏樂器展古箏專業一等獎、園丁杯中國民樂優秀教育獎等榮譽。她在中國各大城市舞台頻頻登台演出深獲好評的同時，也多次赴國外表演。在法國、瑞士等國演出時，當地的樂評家稱，秦君將“中國古鋼琴”的優美琴韻，通過她出神入畫的演奏，在音樂聽，在電臺裡，在唱片上，帶給欽羨中華燦爛文明的西方聽眾，讓他們聽到了來自東方文明古國無與倫比的天籟之音。

秦君一九九七年赴美，開始其作為旅美中國音樂演奏家不同凡響的藝術生涯。在北美，自本世紀中葉起就陸續有具良好藝術傳承的各輩中國民樂藝術家移居這片新大陸，紐約便是他們其中的一個主要居住地。秦君到美國後，前三年主要在大紐約地區從事古箏表演和教學。由於她卓爾不群的超凡琴藝在紐約一時無雙，因而她在北美的中國民樂界也有口皆碑。專家們普遍認為秦君是目前活躍在國際舞台上的少數幾位最傑出的古箏藝術家之一。

秦君擅長演奏已成為中國民樂寶藏中經典之作的古曲，如《寒鴨戲水》、《高山流水》、《漢宮秋月》等，對由民間傳統音樂在近代改編而成的曲目《秦桑曲》、《香山樹鼓》、《蕉窗夜雨》等在演奏中也風格獨具予以創造性地詮釋和演繹，令人為之擊節而嘆。古箏曲目中的今人作品《戰風》、《雪山春曉》等由她巧手纖指翻飛如燕帶出的琴音極富現代感性，看過她演出的美國觀眾十分讚賞她的演奏風格與意境傳達上同時兼具的國際性和宇宙感。紐約林肯表演藝術中心、朱麗婭音樂學院、哥倫比亞廣播公司、國家廣播公司等主

辦的多項重要演出邀請她作為傑出的中國音樂演奏家登臺為廣大美國觀眾獻藝。她也曾與同樣享譽國際的多位中國音樂家合作同臺演出，如指揮家姚學言、小提琴演奏家呂思清、鋼琴演奏家殷承宗以及古箏大師王昌元等。她的中國同行們高度評價她對中國民族音樂的深刻的理解力和豐富的感受力，使她的許多獨奏曲目成就為中國音樂演奏藝術再度創造與不斷超越的典範。

今年秦君應波士頓的中國民樂界邀請前來從事表演與教學。幾個月以來，她已在哈佛大學山德斯劇院，新英格蘭音樂學院喬登廳及麻省理工學院貝殼禮堂等重要演出場所登臺，她的精湛技藝讓波士頓的中美觀眾耳目為之一新。秦君在中華表演藝術基金會主辦的第十屆胡桃山音樂營大師講座向美國音樂界人士及中外樂迷講解並師範中國古箏藝術，使“中國古鋼琴”的獨特魅力更深入地打動了新英格蘭地區愛樂者的心靈。八月份秦君甫從紐約移師波士頓不久，在波士頓中國民樂界重量級人士的支持和安排下，秦君古箏獨奏會在波士頓華僑文教中心向聽眾推出，消息不脛而走，立即吸引了眾多熱心樂迷前往，齊聚在並不寬敞的觀摩聽聆賞，古箏藝術的特異之美也讓眾多樂迷紛紛向秦君拜師，欲從古箏之道入中國民樂世界作故國之神游。中國藝評家司徒天正對該場表演在當地報章上發表了充滿肯定和讚賞的評論。他寫到：“今日看秦君之彈撥古箏，別有新境界，令人神馳目眩。其姿態之優美閑雅，尤不可方物，時而像太極推手，開合自如，時而像游泳健兒，前後推移，或如蜻蜓點水，或似獨鶴飛翔，或如僧尼之作法，或似巧婦之穿針引線，或如平沙落雁，或似猛禽展翅。不論挑、彈、揉、按、捺皆有法度，在她十指纖纖玉指間，五音六律就源源而出。此情此景，實集舞蹈、歌唱、演奏及指揮的技藝於一身。此誠中國文化精粹最具體的表現。琴藝至此，已臻化境。”秦君移居波士頓發展她的藝術事業之初，也在中國城設立了以她個人名字命名的“秦君古箏藝室”，如今已有四、五十人之眾在她門下習琴，她也有意創建一個名為“秦韻古箏藝術團”的教育及表演團體，在新英格蘭地區推布中國古箏藝術，也讓中國民樂在這裡的舞台上以更新、更美的上乘表演贏得美國社會的更廣泛接受與更充份認可。秦君這樣期許著。

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了整個社區。她表示，“我深深地覺得，身為一位亞裔人士，就從幫助自己的族裔同胞開始，幫助自己和整個社區往前邁進。”

就目前而言，增加亞裔美國人社區最終投票人數，將是「第一」目標。

投票人簡介

Johnny Huey, 三十六歲目前在中國城的帝苑(Emperor's Garden)餐館工作。

Huey代表的是一位中國城的潛在性選民受到鼓舞而參加投票的例子。Huey在一九八九年來到美國，一九九五年歸化成美國公民。今年他更新自己駕駛執照時也同時登記參加投票。過去他從未參加任何的選舉投票，但是他一直很密切注意一九九二年和一九九六年的總統選舉活動，今年他也繼續吸收有關選舉活動的資訊。

Huey表示，“我閱讀一些英文和中文報紙，也看電視來吸收選舉資訊。另外我也觀看總統候選人在電視上的政治辯論。我對政治有興趣，雖然我並不完全地了解每位候選人的競選政見，但是我很清楚有關教育，兒童醫療照顧，和醫療方面的政見。”

因為關心每位候選人的政見，Huey也過濾出自己心目中理想的政黨和候選人。Huey認為民主黨比較關心中下階層的民衆，所以他選擇支持民主黨總統候選人。雖然如此，他也不會單方面就此支持一個政黨，選賢與能還是Huey的投票原則。

Huey很重視這個民主國家才有的投票權利，他認為透過選舉的力量可以打造心目中理想的政府。而且相信他手中的這神聖一票，可以為整個選舉活動作出貢獻。

有很多中國城的居民期待著這次的總統選舉，根據Huey說法，他和其他已經登記投票的選民都不再是冷眼旁觀的民衆，從今以後更將成為在社區上具有影響力的政治活動推動者。他表示，“中國城居民的政治意識比以往更濃厚，也唯有登記成為選民，才具資格抒發自己心中對政見的看法，現在已經有很多人登記參加投票”

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Must have High School diploma or G.E.D. Prefer technical trade school. Must have a minimum of 5 years' commercial/industrial maintenance. Must possess good communication skills. Ability to work well with a variety of crews and trades and able to follow verbal and written directions. Must be willing to work outside of the assigned tour of duty to cover all types of emergencies. Must have a valid Massachusetts driver's license. Ref. #50073261

Plumbers (4)

Perform all plumbing duties associated with the repair and maintenance of train maintenance facilities. Perform preventative maintenance, routine and emergency repairs to commercial/industrial plumbing systems to include, but not limited to, water supply systems (1/8" to 12"), sanitary systems, HVAC systems (natural gas: unit heaters, make-up air units), pumps, valves, liquid dispensing systems, fuel system, train washer, air systems (sand transport system, air compressors and dryers), fire sprinkler systems, sump pumps, etc. New installations and renovations to plumbing systems.

Must have High School diploma or GED. Prefer plumbing HVAC or Sheet Metal technical school. Must have minimum 5 years' commercial/industrial plumbing HVAC and/or sheet metal maintenance. Prefer experience with HVAC, natural gas, water treatment systems and computer skills. Massachusetts Plumber's License and/or HVAC, sheet metal certificate required. Ability to read and interpret construction drawings and system schematics/diagrams. Must possess good communication skills. Ability to work well with a variety of crews and trades and able to follow verbal and written directions. Must be willing to work outside of the assigned tour of duty to cover all types of emergencies. Valid Massachusetts driver's license required. Ref. #50073262

Millwrights (2)

Responsible for the maintenance and repairs of train maintenance facilities. Perform preventative, routine and emergency repairs of various facility systems to include, but not limited to, drop tables, overhead doors, bridge cranes, truck hoists, jib cranes, train wash, HVAC systems, pumps, lift, water treatment system, etc.

Must have High School diploma or GED. Prefer technical trade school. Must have a minimum of 5 years' commercial/industrial millwright experience. Must be able to read and interpret construction drawings and system schematics/diagrams. Must possess good communication skills. Ability to work well with a variety of crews and trades and follow verbal and written directions. Must be willing to work outside of the assigned tour of duty to cover all types of emergencies. Must have a valid Massachusetts driver's license. Ref. #50073260

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(The Organization of Chinese American Cans 簡稱:OCA) 策劃第一次的亞太裔投票活動。

亞太裔投票活動主席 Christine Chen 表示,「這也是自史以來第一次舉辦活動鼓勵亞太裔美國人參加投票」,今年有關選民登記事項和一些選舉活動的訊息可以上亞太裔投票活動所提供的網址:www.apiaavote.com查詢。

對於那些過去曾經投票的選民來說,有些時候選舉的結果並不是他們所預期的。美國國會通過的福利法案和移民改革法案對移民社區很不不利。舉例來說,根據個人責任法案的規定,有資格接受聯邦福利的人,必須要在美國工作十年以上。根據「中國進步委員會」的主席(The Chinese Progressive Association, Lydia Lowe)的說法,這項新的法案,對於一些不是美國公民,又沒有符合所規定的工作年限的老年人來說尤其不利。根據麻州移民和難民聯盟會政策協調者, Tyler Moran 表示,一九九六年預定的聯邦預算有百分之四十四是犧牲合法移民者的,包括老年人,殘障,和移民家庭的福利所得來的。Moran 也指出,全國州長協會會努力促成將社會安全補助金撥給在一九九六年前來到美國的移民者的條例。一九九八年,重新開始分發糧食券給一些老年人,殘障人士以及兒童。有一些州像是麻州也補助移民者一些損失。雖然如此,一九九六年通過的移民改革方案還是帶給移民社區像是中國城社區很大的衝擊。

Chen 表示,「由於新的福利法案和移民改革方案帶來的衝擊,亞裔美國人社區開始正視透過選舉爭取權益和平待遇的重要性。美國公民須知和英文英語為第二語言」的課程,也開始教授一些選舉常識。」

根據 Lowe 的說法,中國城居民對參與政治活動的態度日趨積極,居民也愈來愈踴躍登記成為選民,並且日益加強自己的選舉常識。

Lowe 表示,「今年正逢是總統選舉年,有更多的人登記成為選民,選民也比過去具備更豐富的選舉常識。自從新的福利法案通過後,亞裔美國人的政治意識開始覺醒。反對共和黨的亞裔選

民聲浪愈來愈高,過去亞裔選民不知道支持那個政黨,現在則有百分之九十的亞裔選民選擇支持民主黨。」

過去一些移民人士認為聯邦政府對他們無關緊要,自從一九九六年以後移民人士的福利開始逐漸地被剝削,這些移民人士也開始覺得華盛頓特區聯邦政府政客決定的一些政策確實會影響到他們的日常生活,於是移民人士的政治意識開始覺醒。以長遠的眼光來看,這是一件好事。亞裔人士開始參與政治活動,登記成為選民,並且加強教育自己的選舉常識。隨著這股參政風氣的打開,就會設法克服自己的政治心理障礙,不再對投票活動冷淡,為亞裔人士參與政治活動,力爭決策桌上的一席之地而努力帶來希望。

影響投票的因素

這一次波士頓的千禧年選舉,Chan 發現從現場民衆所發問的問題可以歸納出影響選民投票的最大因素是如何找到時間參加投票。中國城選民大致可歸納成三大類別:在餐館工作的選民,年輕的選民,和年老的選民。Chan 表示,每一類別的選民,都無法找出時間投票或者登記參加投票。

在餐館工作的選民一大早就開始工作一直到三更半夜,就算他們有空時也精疲力盡了,一大早起來去登記投票或者去投票會剝奪他們寶貴的睡覺時間。老年人雖然沒有年輕人那麼忙碌,也都被家庭的事情綁住,他們都必須要在照顧年幼的小孩,要出去外面投票就必須要仰賴在餐館工作的親戚幫忙照顧小孩。

至於年輕人,就算他們有時間,可以去投票,也對選舉活動缺乏興趣甚至厭惡政治事務,更不遑論參加投票了。投票對這些年輕人來說,可以簡單地被看成是去做一件讓他們很不舒服的事情。

就算能夠克服時間的障礙,下一個最重要也是最明顯影響投票的因素就是語言障礙。尤其是對於一些年老的選民來講更是困難。七十八歲的 Charles Wing Wu,住在 Charles town 市,並沒有登記參加這次總統選舉的投票,因為他不知道到哪裡去登記,但是他還是透過中文報紙知道一些總統選舉的訊息。他的朋友有些是文盲

,根本無法知道選舉的訊息。文盲也加重語言障礙的困難度。

對於會中文和懂一點點英文的選民來說,最大的投票障礙是,現在的選舉訊息都是使用英文書寫的,尤其是登記成為選民的表格都是英文,對於母語不是英文的選民來說非常地不方便。

Lowe 表示,「沒有雙語選舉資訊是很不方便的,就算選民可以通過移民英文考試,也不代表他們看懂投票須知。」也因為選民對不了解總統候選人的背景和競選政見,不具備基本的選舉常識。Lowe 表示,民衆都會問他,「我如何登記投票?我不知道要投給誰?」

全國性的選舉活動進行中,當地的中文報紙都會提供主要候選人資料,但是根據 Lowe 的說法,這些資訊還是比不上英文傳播媒體所提供的選舉訊息和資料來得完整。

至於地方性的選舉,Low 指出另外一項阻礙亞裔美國人政治活動發展的障礙是亞裔美國人很難在波士頓的政治圈中競選公職,因為很難在政治圈中出頭地,這也間接影響到中國城社區投票的風氣。目前中國城已被歸納入波士頓都市計劃中的南區部份,Low 希望透過前陣子的人口普查,能夠重新劃分中國城選舉區。

美國國會「健康」、「教育」、「勞工」以及「無恤金事務」方面助理和州參議員愛德華甘迺迪的聯絡員 Kyooshi Yue 表示,另外一項投票障礙是文化差異。Yue 表示,「雖然選民歸化美國公民,但是他們並不了解可以透過投票來監督政府。有很多移民人士在他們自己的母國是不參加政治活動的。」

隨著越來越多的亞裔選民登記參加投票和投入選舉活動,一些阻礙參與政治活動的因素也逐漸搬上檯面來討論,也提出解決的辦法來應對。

解決辦法

最重要的解決方法就是加強積極參政的教育計畫,教育民衆知道選舉的重要性,參加投票對自己本身和社區能產生影響力。就像上述所提 OCA 的政治意識覺醒例子,透過她的街頭遊說,產生影響力,一傳十,十傳百的帶動參與政治風氣。

Chan 表示,「大家要有投票是一種神聖義務的共識,唯有透過教育才能產生這種共識。在街頭上看到大家在討論選舉或者看到選舉招牌,除了讓民衆知道選舉活動正在進行之外,也告訴民衆投票的重要性。」

民主國家的特色就是公民可以透過投票行使公權力。這對一些來自共產國家移民者,意義更是非凡。OCA 的 Chen 表示,「有很多移民者,就是因為美國是民主國家才千辛萬苦的。如今不行使公權力,豈不是失去身在民主國家的意義,這和待在自己原先的政黨獨裁國家就沒什麼差別。」

OCA 也不只是單靠社區領袖來傳播選舉訊息,因為這些社區領袖的選舉常識也必須再加強。現在 OCA 和社區團體合作舉辦一些講習會來教育社區民衆的選舉常識。

教育選舉常識也可以從家庭著手進行。Yue 認為家庭中的小孩,或者是年輕人,可以教導較年長的長輩如何投票。「用溝通的方式來教育是亞洲文化中很重要的一部份,藉由這項溝通方式的文化傳統,可以來教育選舉知識。」也建議透過教育來灌輸選舉知識。他相信透過贊助基金在公民和 ESL 課程上來教授民衆投票和選舉的重要性。Yue 提出另外一個解決辦法是透過公民面試來告訴一些懂中文,但是不懂英文的移民者的選舉常識。

目前來自中國的移民者申請歸化美國公民,在公民面試時,可以有翻譯者在旁協助。這些公民申請人必須是年滿五十五歲以上,並且持有綠卡十五年以上,或是年滿五十歲以上,持有綠卡二十年以上。Wu 認為持有綠卡的年限應該要降到十年。這樣子才會有更多不會說英文,但是已經在美國居住超過十年以上的移民者成為美國公民。除此之外,也建議只要居住在美國超過三年就可以具備申請歸化美國公民資格。

除了透過教育方式來灌輸民衆的選舉知識,還有一些可行的實際辦法可以用來鼓勵選民參加投票。Low 所建議的這些辦法都必須要麻州州政府,波士頓市政府和選舉委員會的配合。譬如說:目前最直接的辦法就是在投票票當日提供翻譯人員,來協助不諳英文的選民投票。市政府也可以提供一些翻譯設備,或者是建立優先幫助老年人制度。在市政府,或者是學校董事會上也提供翻譯方面的協助。透過以上所建議

的翻譯協助方式,移民者就可以更加容易的參加一些對他們生活有影響的地方上決策會議。

如果人口普查結果顯示出具備投票權的選民,需要雙語服務。那麼根據投票人權利法案的規定,選務單位就必須提供雙語服務的選票和投票程序指導手冊。就算是在移民不是占多數的社區,市政府也必須要提供雙語服務。OCA 目前正和其他移民組織合作調查實施提供雙語選舉知識資訊的可行性。

這次的選舉,有心的團體也提出一些短期和長期的解決方法來幫助亞裔美國人社區參加投票。麻州大學波士頓分校的亞裔美國人事務研究計畫,將在中國城的 Quincy 學校 Dorchester 和 Lowell 舉辦普查,普查所調查的主要對象是中國人,越南人和高棉人,調查這些族裔所使用的語言和英文程度,討論是否需要雙語協助投票以及其它阻礙投票的問題。

就短期目標來說,CPA 將會舉辦六次的投票須知講習會,內容包括:模擬投票程序(會場會設立模擬投票亭),選舉問題的討論,談總統候選人選的最新選況報導。最接近的兩次投票講習會分別是:十一月四日(星期六)下午一點到三點,在 Josiah Quincy 學校的咖啡廳(座落於華盛頓街八百八十五號)舉行,另外一次講習會是十一月六日(星期一)下午兩點開始在十一樓的圖書館(座落於 Temple Place, 10 號)舉行。

Low 表示,「我們熱烈歡迎所有有興趣參加投票的人,我們希望透過這些講習會,讓選民了解投票的重要性,也代表另一階段工作的開始。Chan 站在中國城街道上遊說民衆踴躍參加投票,這是一位公民開始參與政治活動的典型例子,Chan 不僅喚醒自己的政治意識而且也幫助

投票的問題,提供競選活動的訊息和候選人的資料背景。」另外已經登記成為選民的三百六十六位準投票人,也會在近期之內收到投票須知信函。投票當日,CPA 也會為年長的選民提供運輸工具接送他們到投票場所。

以上種種便利選民的措施,就是希望能夠增加今年的投票人數。透過教育或者是改善選舉服務品質來增強選民參與投票的信心,並且關心選舉事務。最後希望選民可以利用自己所熟悉的語言下判斷,選出自己心目中的理想候選人。預計這次的選舉活動,不僅中國城地區投票的人數會增加,而且選民所接受的選舉訊息也會比以往更加完整。

姑且不論一九九六年通過的福利法案和移民改革法案是否會影響這次選舉亞裔美國人社區的投票人數。福利法案和移民改革法案確實為中國城社區帶來無法預測的衝擊。為了要增加投票的人數,移民組織和個人都必須要面對浮上檯面阻礙投票的障礙,針對這些問題提出解決的辦法。其中語言的障礙,是可能在一日之間消除,所以每一位潛在的選民都是要教育的對象,每一個解決辦法都要確實可行。

Low 表示,「教育社區居民認識選舉的重要性和教導他們如何行使公權力是一個需要長期努力的工作。」投票的結束,也代表了另一階段工作的開始。Chan 站在中國城街道上遊說民衆踴躍參加投票,這是一位公民開始參與政治活動的典型例子,Chan 不僅喚醒自己的政治意識而且也幫助



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亞裔社區的投票障礙及解決辦法

中國城居民Sau-Kin Chan，站在中國城街道上，舉著千禧年波士頓選舉招牌，遊說民眾登記成為選民參加投票。這是一位典型美國公民正式參與政治活動的起步，任何一位想積極參政的人最基層的政治意識也是從這裡開始覺醒。

Chan已經歸化美國公民，她不過是幾萬名中國城居民之一，更不用提居住在大波士頓地區和整個美國的亞裔美人。Chan認為參加選舉投票不是一種負擔也不是一個無聊的舉動，而是行使一位公民應盡的義務。今年是美國的總統選舉年，在中國城社區有將近五百位居民登記參加投票。這個現象指出，過去一般亞裔民眾給人政治活動不踴躍的刻板印象已逐漸被打破。參加基層政治活動已經在中國城逐漸引起重視，一些參與政治活動的困難現象也搬出檯面來討論，並提出一些新的思維和解決辦法來克服亞裔美人的投票障礙。

Chan的故事只是一位典型的亞裔美人參與政治活動的例子。一九八三年，Chan十三歲的時候和她的家人來到美國，七年之後Chan在唸波士頓學院二年級時歸化美國公民。剛開始的時候，Chan認為成為美國公民最大的好處是找工作時候會比較順利，至於要不要參加選舉投票則不是一件很重要的事，不會影響到日常的生活，因此一九九二年的選舉，她並沒有參加投票。

後來她改變想法，參加選舉投票確實有它的影響力，Chan表示，“我開始重視身為公民的權利和義務，浪費這個公民權利會是一件很令人遺憾的事。”於是，不久之後，Chan開始登記參加投票。

一九九六年之後，Chan的政治意識開始萌芽發展，隨著年歲的增長，更是感受到參加選舉投票的重要性。Chan後來更克服了一般亞裔人士參加選舉投票的一個最大的心理障礙，就是認為：我的選票並不會影響選舉大局。Chan表示，“我體會到自己這神聖一票所代表的意義，依個人的角度來看，參加投票讓我覺得做了一件有意義的事。”

Chan除了感受到參加選舉投票的重要性。兩年前搬到中國城後，在耳濡目染下讓她更深刻的感受到中國城社區對參與選舉的態度，Chan很快的就注意到中國城社區缺乏代表族群的有

力聲音。為了要改變這個政治弱勢情況，Chan加入了中國城居民委員會，也成為中國城自治委員會的會員。目前中國城自治委員會正在更新一九九零年提出的中國城社區主要發展計畫。

兩個月之前，Chan接受新波士頓人競選辦公室(ONB)主席，Cheng Imm Tan的請求，舉著波士頓千禧年選舉招牌，在中國城街道上鼓勵選民登記參加投票。這是Chan第一次有機會能夠正式參與政治基層活動。幾天的工作下來，她發掘了不少有意參加政治活動的潛在選民，同時在個人方面，Chan的政治意識也比以前更加濃厚。

起初，Chan很不習慣站在街頭上和陌生人談論選舉。後來她發現越多的人討論選舉，越覺得自己勝任這項工作。她說，“我真正的感覺到在幫助別人”，大部分的觀光客和中國城居民都能夠接受這種街頭上的遊說方式。Chan表示，一旦討論到選舉，民眾就會開始發問一些有關投票程序的問題。“他們說，他們都有收到英文的投票通知單(信函)上會詳列投票日期和地點，不過看不懂或者搞不清楚其中內容。”

有些選民的問題當場可以解答，Chan告訴需要更多選舉資訊的選民，可以打電話到新波士頓人競選辦公室(The Office of New Bostonians 簡稱：ONB)詢問。ONB目前也是波士頓移民問題諮詢中心，ONB也協助一些移民組織和團體參與這次波士頓千禧年選舉。光是在中國城社區，就有大大小小十四個移民組織和團體幫助選民登記投票。Chan也注意到參與選舉活動的移民組織有逐年增加的趨勢，在這個趨勢下，不僅會有更多的移民者登記參加投票，也會間接培養出這些移民人士日後參與政治活動的興趣。Chan表示，“每一次的選舉，我們都會設法讓更多的移民人士參與選舉活動，也透過各式各樣的團體和組織，讓民眾知道選舉活動。”

一九九六年的主導因素

由於各個移民組織的積極參與全國性的選舉活動，也帶動更多的移民者登記成為選民。一九九六年華裔美人組織

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